

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

WILSON, Joe (Republican)
Representative, 2nd District, South Carolina
Elected 18 December 2001 in a special election
to the 107th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Charleston, South Carolina - 31 July 1947

Home: Springdale, South Carolina

Marital Status: Married (Roxanne) - 4 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Washington and Lee Univ., B.A., 1969 (political science); Univ of South Carolina, J.D., 1972

Military: US Army Reserve, 1972-75; South Carolina National Guard, 1975-present. LtCol, staff judge advocate for the 218th Mechanized infantry Brigade

Profession: Lawyer, campaign mngr, US Energy Dept official (Deputy General Counsel, 1981-2)

Political: Pine Ridge town judge, 1974-76; Springdale town judge, 1977-80; South Carolina Senate, 1985-2001. In the 18 December 2001 special election, defeated Brent Weaver (D), with 73% of the vote, to succeed Rep Floyd Spence (R), who died 16 August 2001. Reelected in 2002 with 84% of the vote.

Rep Wilson, a social and fiscal conservative, is expected to stress strengthening the Nation's defense, although he is also interested in reducing capital gains taxes and giving additional funding to schools. Rep Wilson's first political experience after college was working on Rep Spence's first campaign for Congress. Since then he has worked on all of Rep Spence's subsequent campaigns, serving as manager or chairman of six. Worked with his predecessor for the 31 years he was in Congress. Championed Rep Spence's views on defense throughout his own campaign and stated that his first priority would be to seek a seat on the Armed Services Cmte. Noted that his legislative agenda would be very similar to Rep Spence's and was unable to think of a way in which he will differ from his mentor. Also served as an intern for Sen Strom Thurmond (R-SC) in 1967.

In the 107th Congress, urged support of HR 4635, the Arming Pilots Against Terrorism bill. Supported the expansion of NATO. Praised the President's initiatives in strengthening the US's relationship with India. Remarked that the terrorists targeting India Kashmir are part of the same al Qaeda network that attack the US.

Additional: One of his sons is a first lieutenant in the Army National Guard; another is an ensign in the Navy, currently attending the Armed Forces medical school in Bethesda.

Served with Rep Henry Brown (R-SC) in the State legislature. His district includes several military bases such as Parris Island Marine Corps Recruitment Depot and the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station.

AF Bases: North AF Auxiliary Field; McEntire ANGB

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES - Subcs on Tactical Air & Land Forces; Terrorism

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE